

A visit with Kevin Casey

DHS valedictorian hopes to be a sportswriter

BY SARAH COUGHLIN
CLIPPER CONTRIBUTOR

Kevin Casey is a hard worker by nature, so excelling in school came naturally to him. As Duxbury High School's 2011 Valedictorian, Casey told us what it was like giving a speech in front of the entire class and his plans for the future.

THE CASEY FILE

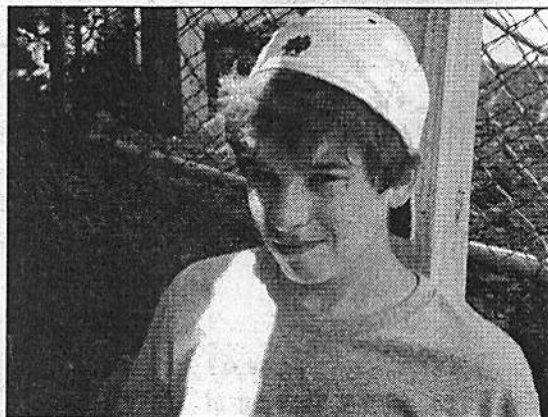
Favorite Movie: Step Brothers

Favorite Book: "Chasing Greatness," a golf book

Hobbies: Golf, reading nonfiction, playing with my older brother Matt

Pet Peeve: Clichés

Family: Mom, Dad, older brother Matt, younger



Kevin Casey is this year's Duxbury High School valedictorian. He will be attending Northwestern in the fall.

When did you find out you were the valedictorian? Sometime during third or fourth term, back in early May. My guidance counselor told me and called my parents to let them know, too. It wasn't any sort of huge ceremony.

Were you surprised? It wasn't a huge surprise. I knew I was No. 1 going into senior year because the No. 1 and No. 2 students of the junior class are the marshalls for that year's graduation.

Did you hope to be valedictorian someday? I didn't really dream of it; I'm not like that. I just do well in school because that's how I'm wired. I just want to succeed in everything that I do. It wasn't really a goal; it just kind of happened that way.

Were your family and friends excited for you? They were, probably more so than I was because I knew I would have to make a speech. I'm not afraid of public speaking but am not super comfortable doing it.

How did the speech go? Everyone said they loved it. Apparently it is on YouTube now, too. When I wrote it I was trying not to be cliché or make anyone doze off. I tried to mix it up a little bit yet still be serious. I think I accomplished that.

Did schoolwork always come easy for you? Yeah, but I do work hard. It wasn't like I was laughing at everyone who finds school hard. For the most part, though, school wasn't terribly tough for me. Some subjects came easier than others. Math is easiest for me; I work really well with numbers. History, too – I just like knowing about the past and it was interesting for me to learn. English was sometimes difficult. It's harder to get the analysis down. Apparently I'm a good writer, or that's what my teachers say ... but it is tougher for me to read between the lines when I read.

What was the most challenging aspect of high school? Getting up in the morning I guess. I am a morning person, but getting up at 6:30 a.m. every morning kind of wears on me for the year.

What was the most enjoyable part of Duxbury High School? Definitely the people. I will really miss all my high school friends.

Where did you hope to attend college? Where will you be going in the fall? I didn't really think about it much until a couple of years ago. I did always love Notre Dame Football growing up. I kind of wanted to go there but it didn't end up working out. I am going to Northwestern, which will be fun—their team is in the Big Ten and you get free football tickets. I'm looking forward to exploring Chicago and seeing a new culture.

What will you study? Journalism. I want to be a sports writer someday. My favorite sport has always been golf. I'd love to work for Sports Illustrated or Golf Digest or some other

golf magazine. Who knows what will happen in four years, but that's my ambition at this point.

What is your proudest accomplishment? My dad has this program called Hoops for Heroes – volunteers play basketball with underprivileged children every Sunday. I was part of it for over a decade and was just put into their "hall of fame." I met a lot of awesome kids.

What other activities were you involved in? Well, Hoops for Heroes and other stuff with kids who have special needs. My older brother, Matt, has special needs. I also run cross country and track. The kids on the team are all really nice and our coach, Mr. Dunn, who just retired, is a great man.

How do you think the new high school will impact learning in Duxbury? I was here for the new Alden and it was definitely a different atmosphere. I was more excited to go to school. When you go from an old building to a new one it is exciting. Even though kids may not admit it, they will probably look forward to going to school. I wish they would've done it a few years earlier so I could've benefitted from it, but I guess you can't win 'em all.

What is the most important thing you learned in high school? How to talk to people. My teacher, Mrs. Ciccarelli, always taught us to use eye contact and really listen when conversing with others.

Would you do anything differently if you were just entering your freshman year of high school? Maybe I would be a little less shy. I probably would've been more confident. Other than that I wouldn't change much. I think I was pretty ready for high school when I walked in those doors the first day.